(b) if so, the justification for collecting such huge amounts from them especially from the students belonging to economically weaker sections;

(c) whether in many Kendriya Vidyalayas, the enrolled percentage of SC/ST students has come down, due to financial inability of their parents; and

(d) the steps Government propose to remove the burden of Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi and increase enrollment of SC/ST students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi is being collected to provide better educational facilities, infrastructure for sports, games, computers, lab equipments, library books and other academic facilities for uplifting the academic standard of the KV students. The Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi (VVN) was introduced as per the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC). Parents who are mainly Government employees are generally able to pay this amount, to ensure quality education to their wards.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi

698. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is collecting from each student an amount ranging from Rs. 160 to 200 per month as Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi in addition to the tuition fees;

(b) how the Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi is different from tuition fee or donation, contribution to building fund etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that low paid Government employees, Jawans of Defence/Para-Military Forces are not entitled to the reimbursement of the amount paid to Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi, from their departments and it is a huge financial burden for them; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose any action to remove/reduce this burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi is being collected from all students from class I to XII for providing facilities such as infrastructure for sports and games, computer labs, payment to contractual teachers engaged for specific activity and other student related activities such as printing of diaries, school magazines, study material etc. Tuition fee is collected from students of class IX to XII only, except from SC/ST and girl students. The Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi (VVN) was introduced in view of the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC). VVN is not a building fund as expenditure on permanent buildings for schools is met out of Government grants.

(c) As per existing Rules only the tuition fee is being reimbursed. However, the subscription on account of VVN is generally not a financial burden on the Government employees.

(d) No, Sir.

Female teachers

689. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Seventh All India Education Survey, there has been a 50.66 per cent growth in the upper primary schools segments while the secondary and higher secondary schools have seen an increase of 38.43 and 85.75 per cent growth respectively;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in many States the number of female teachers in primary schools is less than 30 per cent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The percentage of female teachers in Primary Schools is